



## **TAXPAYERS UNITED MICHIGAN FOUNDATION**

2700 Robindale · Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

Bill McMaster, State Chairman (Volunteer)

**Tel.** (248) 977-1865 · **Cell** (248) 798-8501 · **Fax** (248) 481-7319

**Email:** Bill@TaxpayersUnitedMI.org · **www.**TaxpayersUnitedMI.org

Tax Deductible under IRS Code 501(c)(3). Founded 1976.

*"Helping educate grassroots taxpayers how to defend and control their Constitutional Rights despite exploitation by units of government."*

## **NEWS MEDIA ALERT** Wednesday, 10-19-11

**Gov. Rick Snyder is resorting to dirty tricks in order to get enough votes in the Michigan legislature to build a \$2.2 billion Detroit-Windsor Government Bridge opposed by 53% more Detroiters and statewide Michigan registered voters than side with him.**

At the 1:30 p.m. start of the Senate Economic Development Committee meeting in Lansing today, Bill McMaster, State Chairman (Volunteer) of Taxpayers United Michigan Foundation, was preparing to distribute the four-page report of his pending testimony to the seven Committee members when someone laid a 38-page "**S-5 SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 410**" in front of Committee Chairman Mike Kowall (R-White Lake) with the comment, "The Governor wants your Committee to vote this Substitute Bill out of Committee today and send it to the full Senate Floor with Committee recommendation that it be adopted.

Sen. Kowall responded diplomatically: *"During the course of hearings on SB410, I have conducted the Economic Development Committee in a fair and transparent fashion, Today's submission of a 38-page substitute literally two minutes prior to the beginning of the hearing runs counter to the spirit of openness of which we've been operating. It's completely unacceptable to be asked to vote on a new bill without first having the opportunity to read it. Thus, I'm adjourning today's hearing to give committee members time to review the Sen. Tupac Hunter (D-Detroit) substitute. As chairman of this committee, I will continue to work to preserve a fair and open discussion of this issue. Michigan citizens deserve no less."*

No copies of the Substitute Bill were available for those waiting to testify in opposition to Senate Bill No. 410 which was solely sponsored last May by Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville (R-Monroe) at the behest of Gov. Snyder.

Last week, Dick McLellan, veteran Lansing lawyer for Republican causes testified before the Senate Economic Development Committee that Gov. Snyder asked him the day before to submit authoritative documentation that the Michigan Constitution did not prohibit him from creating a "new governmental authority" to build and operate a Detroit-Windsor Government Bridge that "won't cost taxpayers a penny". McLellan's seven pages of legal citations completely ignored the Headlee Amendment voted into the Michigan Constitution by a majority vote of grassroot residents statewide which reserves the power to the people to create new units of government like PPPs and Authorities. He also avoided mention of case law, specifically the Michigan Court of Appeals (Case No. 253592) ruling and the May 4, 2006 ORDER of the Michigan Supreme Court (Case No.129278) ordering Defendants City of Detroit, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, etc. to "IMMEDIATELY

DISSOLVE DETROIT AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (DARTA)" for violating provisions of the Headlee Amendment. They did!

McMaster, called the Champion of the Headlee Amendment by Michigan Information and Research Service (MIRS), countered with his own 7-pages of testimony titled, **Gov. Snyder's Public/Private Bridge Partnership Prohibited by MI Constitution**. McMaster referenced the 1978 Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment in the Michigan Constitution (Article 9, Sections 6 and 25-34) as indisputable proof Gov. Snyder was wasting grassroots taxpayers' time and money giving priority to building a Government Bridge in competition with the Twin Bridge that Detroit's Ambassador Bridge Co. Matty Moroun wants to build with private investment in an American free enterprise endeavor.

A day later, a Lansing public relations firm supporting Gov. Snyder's Government Bridge issued a news release intended to rehabilitate Dick McLellan's reputation damaged by his less than professional Senate Committee testimony. The October 14 news release quoted Steven Naifeh, President of Best Lawyers, saying: *"We continue to believe--as we have believed for more than 25 years--that recognition by one's peers is the most meaningful form of praise in the legal profession. We would like to congratulate **Richard D. McLellan** on being selected as the 'Lansing Best Lawyers Administrative/Regulatory Law Lawyer of the Year' for 1012."*

Certain reporters of the Capitol Press Corp openly supportive of the Government Bridge and against the Moroun family's plan for a privately funded and operated Twin Bridge, are continuing to propagandize Gov. Snyder's false claim with transmissions like "Breaking News: Bridge Sub: No Taxpayer \$ For Community Benefits".

Today's MSU State News headlines on the front page, **"Snyder brings bridge talk to MSU"**. *"I don't think there is any good reason not to support the bridge proposal," Snyder said, calling for residents to lobby their senators for support. "This is something that clearly is in the best interest of Michigan.*

The State News continued: *"A tax expert (McLellan) told the Senate last week the bridge would not put taxpayer money in danger, and Snyder said he believes taxpayers would not be held responsible under the Michigan constitution."*

In an October 14-16 polling of 600 Detroit and outstate Michigan registered voters, **the polling company, inc.** of Washington DC and New York found (on behalf of Americans for Prosperity-Michigan) that only 31% support Gov. Snyder's legislation to build a new Detroit-Windsor Government Bridge. 49% oppose the Governor. 19% don't know or are undecided.

With 58% of his constituents convinced a new Detroit-Windsor Government Bridge would be Snyder's Folly, it is not surprising Gov. Snyder and his new-found Democratic Party supporters in the State Senate are hiding the text of the his 38-page S-5 SUBSTITUE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 410 from reaching the public.

Unprecedented in recent state government history, Gov. Snyder is denying internet access to the text of his Substitute Bill. McMaster personally went after the Senate Economic Development Committee adjourned this afternoon without voting to the Capitol offices of Gov. Snyder, Sen. Hunter, Sen. Majority Leader Richardville, Sen. Minority Leader Whittmer, the Clerk of the Senate, Speaker of the House Bolger, Clerk of the House, and several other normal sources for a copy of the S-5 Substitute.

All gave a uniform answer. "Gov. Snyder has ordered that **the Substitute not be released to the public until the Senate Economic Development Committee has a chance to vote on it tomorrow afternoon.**

Never since McMaster began defending the 1978 Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment in our Michigan Constitution has he, nor anyone else in Taxpayers United, ever been denied access to a pending legislative bill, especially one that Gov. Snyder expects to use to violate provisions of the Headlee Amendment in our Constitution, which he took an Oath of Office to uphold.

McMaster has obtained a copy of S-5 SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 410 and expects to testify against it during the **State Senate Economic Development Committee hearing chaired by State Senator Mike Kowall: 1:30 p.m., Senate Hearing Room, Ground Floor, Boji Tower, 124 W. Allegan St., Lansing, MI 48933.**

Oddly, McMaster notes, Gov. Snyder now wants taxpayers to pay millions of dollars in "Community Benefits" and "Eminent Domain" to locate his Government Bridge two miles west of the Ambassador Bridge, while maintaining his Government Bridge "won't cost taxpayers a penny". By comparison, the Morouns have been planning their Twin Bridge for years and have already acquired, and have been paying taxes on 200 homes, land that may be used for the Detroit side of their new Twin Bridge.

**Note to Editors:** Bill McMaster has never met Matty Moroun, CEO of Ambassador Bridge Co., nor his son who is Vice Chairman of the Board, nor the President. Neither McMaster nor Taxpayers United Michigan Foundation have taken any money from them which could compromise their independence on either the Government Bridge or Twin Bridge and belief that Gov. Snyder has no business trying to build a Government Bridge when the Moroun family is capable, willing, and operationally experienced in building an \$800 million Twin Bridge next to their Ambassador Bridge at never any cost to already financially stressed Michigan residents.

*Taxpayers United Michigan Foundation was founded in 1976 by Dick Headlee (deceased 2004) and Bill McMaster to successfully win statewide voter approval of the 1978 Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment. It has evolved into a tax deductible 501 (c) (3) under the IRS code as a nonpartisan, nonprofit educational foundation helping educate grassroots taxpayers how to defend and control their Constitutional Rights despite exploitation by unethical public officials and units of government.*

*Bill McMaster is still President of national award winning McMaster Marketing & PR he founded in 1968. (Again no connection with the Moroun businesses).*

# # #

Bill McMaster, State Chairman (Volunteer)

Taxpayers United Michigan Foundation

2700 Robindale

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

Cell: (248) 798-8501, Office: (248) 977-1865

Email: [Bill@TaxpayersUnitedMI.org](mailto:Bill@TaxpayersUnitedMI.org)

Website: [www.TaxpayersUnitedMI.org](http://www.TaxpayersUnitedMI.org)

